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# AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WILLIAM GREEN, President

WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1939.

FRANK MORRISON, Secretary-Treasurer

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## The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor



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FRANK MORRISON  
Secretary-Treasurer



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Fifteenth Vice President

### THE 1939 CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

The Fifty-ninth Annual Convention of the American Federation of Labor opened at Cincinnati, Ohio, on October 2, 1939, and closed on October 13.

It was generally regarded as being one of the most important A. F. of L. conventions held since the Federation was established fifty-nine years ago.

The five hundred and twenty-two delegates of the affiliated National and International Unions, State Federations of Labor, City Central Bodies and directly affiliated Local Trade and Federal Labor Unions devoted a large part of the two weeks' deliberations of the convention to considering the Annual Report of the American Federation of Labor Executive Council, which covered all important subjects affecting the economic, social and political rights of working men and women.

As soon as the convention met, the American Federation of Labor Weekly News Service began the publication of a series of articles based on the official proceedings of the convention. The publication

of these articles has continued for thirteen weeks and with this issue the convention proceedings have been practically all covered.

Two members of the Executive Council retire on December 31. Frank Morrison, who has served as Secretary of the American Federation of Labor for thirty-nine years and as Secretary-Treasurer for four years, declined to be a candidate for reelection. The convention elected George Meny, president of the New York State Federation of Labor to succeed Mr. Morrison. Frank Duffy, who began his services on the Executive Council as Seventh Vice President in 1913 and was elected Sixth Vice President in 1916, Fourth Vice President in 1917, Third Vice President in 1918, Second Vice President in 1923, and First Vice President in 1929 and every year since then, also declined to be a candidate for reelection after twenty-seven years of service. The convention elected William L. Hutchison, President of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, to succeed Mr. Duffy.

In view of the distinguished record of

the present Executive Council and the long years of service of the two retiring members, the American Federation of Labor Weekly News Service publishes in this issue the photographs of the members of the Executive Council, together with a description of the important functions which the President, the Secretary-Treasurer and the Council perform. In addition there is included a tribute to the work of the Council unanimously adopted by the 1939 convention.

### OFFICERS OF THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

The officers of the American Federation of Labor consist of the President, fifteen Vice Presidents, and the Secretary-Treasurer, who are elected annually by the convention of the Federation for one year, their term of office beginning on the first day of January following the convention.

The Executive Council of the Federation consists of the President, the fifteen Vice Presidents, and the Secretary-Treasurer, whose duties are definitely set forth in the Federation's Constitution which is enacted by the A. F. of L. conventions.

### DUTIES OF THE PRESIDENT

The Constitution stipulates that it shall be the duty of the President "to exercise supervision of the Federation throughout its jurisdiction."  
The Constitution contains the following provision defining the disciplinary powers exercised by the President:  
"The President shall be authorized and empowered to

discipline State Federations of Labor, City Central Labor Unions, and Local and Federal Labor Unions, including authority to suspend and/or expel any officer or member thereof, and/or to suspend and/or revoke their charter subject first to an appeal to the Executive Council and thereafter to the next regular convention immediately following.

"The President with the approval of the Executive Council shall likewise have authority and be empowered to safeguard and protect and if necessary take immediate charge of all equities and properties, tangible or intangible, acquired and/or possessed by State Federations of Labor, City Central Labor Unions and Local and Federal Labor Unions or their subsidiaries or agents, whenever or however such equities and/or properties may be jeopardized through disobedience to the constitution, laws, rules and requirements of the American Federation of Labor or for any other reason or cause deemed imperative by the President and the Executive Council, and shall hold same in trust as provided by the laws of the American Federation of Labor.

"Disciplinary action by the President shall consist of 'emergency action' and 'decision' the latter being subject to the appeal to the Executive Council heretofore provided. 'Emergency action' shall be taken when in the opinion of the President it is necessary to preserve the rights of the American Federation of Labor, or of any affiliate mentioned in this section, or of any officers or members thereof, and for the purpose of preserving the status quo."

"This 'emergency action' is effective only for forty-five days unless within that period written charges are filed in which case the emergency action stands until a trial is had before the President or a representative designated by him, with provision that an appeal from his decision may be taken to the A. F. of L. Executive Council.

The President is also required to sign all official documents of the A. F. of L., call meetings of the Executive Council.

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